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Adele Edelman, Erin
Weaver, Glen
McClintock,
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and Heidi Goodrich

TBI Advisory Board

February 5, 2008, 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Stanley Hall, Room 107, State Complex, Waterbury

Present: Marsha Bancroft, Diane Bogdan, Bryan Dague, Maureen Mayo, Trevor Squirrell, Ted Stachulski, Al Urpsis, Adele Edelman, Heidi Goodrich, Glen McClintock, Erin Weaver, Sheila Tourangeau, and Anna King.

I. Introductions

Diane opened the meeting at approximately 9:20 AM. Everyone introduced themselves.

Heidi asked everyone to look over the contact information and make changes on the Advisory Board contact sheet that was passed around.

All members present looked over the minutes from the previous Advisory Board meeting. Marsha made motion to accept and all members were in favor.

All members present reviewed previous Steering Committee minutes. Trevor made a motion to accept, everyone agreed.

II. Business

a) Secretary status

Diane announced that Ted will no longer be Secretary of the Advisory Board or Steering Committee. She asked if anyone would be interested in taking the Secretary position, there are no volunteers at this time.

b) New Members

Diane read the bio for Clayton Clark to the Board. All voted in favor of Clayton as an Advisory Board member. Glen introduced Al Urpsis. Al talked a little about himself, Marsha noted her approval. Al then left the room for everyone to vote. All voted in favor of Al as an Advisory Board and Steering Committee member.

III. Standing Reports

a) Partnership Grant Report

Glen presented on the goals of the Partnership grant and noted progress to date. The main goals of the grant were 1) To identify veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) to be served by

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establishing a Neuro-Resource Facilitation (NRF) System and 2) To help the Brain Injury Association of Vermont to build capacity in order to eventually take the lead of this Neuro-Resource Facilitation (NRF) System. He also noted that since the initial application, with recommendations from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the grant had been modified. Originally the grant planned to hire an NRF Facilitator in the first year. Instead it was decided that it would be important to establish the foundation for a NRF System before a Facilitator was hired in year 2. Towards this goal Glen plans to work with outside technical assistance to initiate a resource mapping process. As a first step in this direction, Heidi is surveying TBI providers to get up-to-date information on the variety of resources in their area that could serve individuals with TBI. We will also be developing systems to make sure that information is kept up to date on a regular basis. In conjunction with this resource mapping process, a training plan will be implemented in the second half of the year focused on health care professionals, veterans service organizations, state services, and veterans and their family members. In order to help build the capacity of the BIA-VT, the Partnership Grant has also initiated a contract with the BIA of New Hampshire who will provide technical assistance, including Board development and training, addressing sustainability issues through fund-raising activities, assistance with planning and executing the State TBI Conference, and development of the BIA-VT data-base.

Glen also stated that he will continue to work on building relationships by meeting with groups such as the Veterans Administration (VA), the Global War on Terrorists Specialist (GWOTS), the Military and Family Network (MFCN) and other veteran service organizations.

Ted asked how the Resource information will be collected and Glen informed him that providers had been given forms to fill out and Heidi will follow up with a phone call.

b) TBI Program Report

Erin Weaver gave a report on the TBI Program. She noted that the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Program diverts and/or returns Vermonters, with a moderate to severe traumatic brain injury (TBI), from hospitals and facilities to a community-based setting. This is a rehabilitation-based, choice-driven program intended to support individuals to achieve their optimum independence and help them return to work. (See Special Initiatives section for more information on TBI and the implementation grant.)

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Highlights from FY '07:

- 12 Individuals were discharged from TBI waiver services.
- Since implementation, out-of-state placements dropped from a high of 20 to an average of 3 per year.
- As of July 12, 2007 Case Management (CM) reimbursement went up from 36.00/hour to 48.68. Reimbursement for 24 hour care and respite still only at 62.50/hour. This is a major issue.

c) TBI Conference Meeting Report

Trevor Squirrel updated everyone that this year our 20th TBI Conference will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Burlington, VT on October 29th, a one day event only. There have been two meetings between the BIA of New Hampshire and the BIA of Vermont and the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 12th in White River Junction. Lori Sandefur, overseer of BIA Conference planning is giving a lot of support, suggestions and help in organizing this event along with the BIA of NH. There will be approximately five tracks including Family/Caregiver, Survivor, and Veterans. A number of possible presenters have been contacted, and there is a very high possibility of three new members that may be joining the planning committee. We are still in need of a theme.

Erin passed around a piece of paper and asked the committee to give some input/suggestions for topics. The results:

- "TBI & Sexuality" – came up as a big topic at recent Case Managers meeting
- Workshops for Voc Rehabilitation (VR) counselors or topics with an employment focus
- Town meeting with Bernie?
- Supports for Caregivers/Families
- Children's Sports and TBI
- Vermont Protection & Advocacy (P & A) Legal Clinic as a workshop
- Alternative medicine – healing options

d) Trust Fund Updates and Activities

Trevor discussed the difficult financial climate of the Trust Fund Committee. Trevor showed all of the House Members a copy of the *Wall Street Journal* article "Hidden Trauma: Studies Cite Head Injuries as Factor in Some Social Ills", January 29, 2008 – which was then passed around to Advisory Board Members. Erin passed around the TBI Study Committee Manual and Trevor explained that there is a two page summary of this manual that was created by the Study Committee. Ted asked how he could



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obtain a copy of this manual. He was advised to contact the State House Representative whose contact information is listed on the manual. At the DMV meeting, Ed Flanagan was on the House Side versus the Senate Side.

- e) Upcoming Meeting with Congressman Welch
Congressman Welch, who recently returned from Iraq, became very interested in the Veteran's TBI Survival Guide, which Ted is responsible for creating. The Congressman asked to meet with Ted, who then brought it to the attention of the State of Vermont. Trevor, Glen, Erin and Ted will be meeting with the Congressman to discuss Vermont Veterans and Traumatic Brain Injury. The goal of this meeting is to improve the coordination and collaboration of services offered by Veteran's Services Organizations, State agencies, and the Brain Injury Association of Vermont for returning Veterans with TBI. Their agenda is to introduce themselves, Erin will give a TBI Overview, Trevor and Ted will discuss the Importance of Information and Referral, Glen and Ted will tell him the Need for greater collaboration between State and VA Services, and finally Trevor will update Congressman Welch with the Trust Fund and Legislative Reports. There will be time at the end for questions and answers.

IV. Provider Capacity throughout the State

Erin discussed provider capacity difficulties, stating the need to send some clients out of state as there are more needs than providers. David is the person responsible for placing clients out of state. Al and Erin are trying to find more twenty four hour supervisions, however TBI services pay much less which causes a big challenge. Residential community based providers are interested in providing home care services to TBI individuals. Anna, a TBI Survivor, discussed her experience with Pride. She has a Home Care Provider in Barre whom she lives with and pays room and board, and she has a 40/hour a week support person. There was a brief discussion on how a home can become a Home Care Provider to a TBI client. The process for a person's home to become a Home Care Provider is to be approved by the Home Evaluation Process. There were suggestion on how to get more home care providers; one suggestion was to write a soft piece in the newspaper describing the system, another suggestion was to integrate some already community based systems into a TBI Home Care Provider such as Lincoln Street (Springfield), HRCS, Champlain Community Services, Sterling, Family Care, and Howard. However, there is a reimbursement issue.



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- The average plan in FY '07 was \$5,363 per month to the average out-of-state cost of \$14,000 per month.
- 100% of individuals improved their quality of life and level of functioning based on individual quarterly assessments.
- There are 22 new providers, of which only 6 are able to provide 24 hour support. This is a HUGE issue.
 - Orleans Essex VNA Provider
 - Sterling – new within the last 1.5 years
 - CSAC – new provider within the last year
 - NEK – considering becoming a provider
- Referrals primarily come from major rehab centers in the state
- Projected funding in July 2009 for five additional clients.
- There are 63 clients currently on the Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver Program, 7 are funded by Mental Health and 2 recently transitioned over to Choices for Care.
 - Caledonia Home Health Care (CHHC) – 3 clients
 - Community Associates (CSAC) – 2 clients
 - Eagle Eye Farm (EEF) - 6 clients
 - Franklin County Home Health & Hospice (FCHHA) – 1
 - Lenny Burke Farm (HIS) – 17 clients (FULL)
 - Professional Nurses Services (PNS) – 2 clients
 - PRIDE, Inc. – 22 clients
 - Riverview Life Skills Center (RVL) – 7 clients (FULL)
 - Sterling Area Services (SAS) – 2 clients

V. Brain Injury Awareness Month

March is Brain Injury Awareness Month. Sheila handed out a public service announcement from the BIA of America, inviting every brain injured person to make an origami brain crane; Sheila will email all of the information about this. Glen and Heidi have been asked to do an origami workshop at the next Steering Committee meeting. Some ideas from the Vermont BIA are, send public interest stories out to the media, also to send out information about the Trust Fund to make this public knowledge.

Erin and Glen have been asked to gather the information from Dr. Black, a Neurologist, who did a study at the Vermont State Hospital recently to see how many of the clients were screened for TBI. This information may also be of interest for the March BIA month.

Another important media event is Clayton Clark's Veterans Benefits 101 Summit; this is 8 hour training on March 25th at the Cyprian Center in the State Complex, Waterbury. There is a \$10 registration fee. Glen will send everyone information about this.

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Anyone is welcome to write an article on TBI for the BIA Newsletter. The BIA 2008 calendars will also be for sale next month. Survivors that won will get a free calendar. They will be priced at \$12.95 or 2 for \$20.00.

VI. Resource Mapping

Glen handed out a Resource Mapping document and a discussion followed. Glen explained that the Neuro Resource Facilitation's (NRF) first order of business is to initiate the Resource Mapping process. The Advisory Board was then formed into four groups of three to answer two questions that Glen had provided. Each group shared their answers.

VII. Discussion of previous topics/other

- Bryan informed everyone there will be an APSE Network on Employment Conference on May 7th at the Killington Grand Hotel. Michael Calahan will be the Keynote speaker and will discuss Customized Employment/Supported Employment. They invite presentations for the conference, visit www.vermontAPSE.org to find out more information.
- Marsha would like Protection & Advocacy (P & A) and the TBI Clinics to be better publicized. She will do a showcase at the Leadership meeting and will handout the book, "Legal rights of a Vermonter with TBI". This information will be distributed to the Family Readiness Center in Rutland, the Veterans Administration, and to providers. She is open to any suggestions as to where else would benefit from receiving this information.
- Ted announced the Veteran's TBI Survival Guide will be assembled at Norwich University with the help of Norwich cadets and volunteers. He received a call from Norwich representatives during the meeting who informed him that all of this was possible and will be a donation of space and time. This brought interest to everyone, especially as it is Brain Injury Awareness month, there was a suggestion to get media attention to the State of Vermont and the military connection. This could be the human interest story needed for the newspapers next month. The next batch of Guides will be completed at the beginning of March. Everyone gave high regards to the TBI Survival Guide; one was given to each member when they came in.

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- AI discussed Anna's role in Quality Management at the State of Vermont. Anna will inform people of self advocacy and ask if they are interested in the development.

VIII. Public Comment

None given.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Bogdan

Diane Bogdan, Chairperson
Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board